

Letter from the Northwest—No. XVI.
FALLS OF ST. ANTHONY, MINN.,
July 11, 1870.

To the Editor of the Press:

This State has just passed through the most intensely "heated term," the season of the year considered, known to "the oldest inhabitant." During a large portion of the latter half of June the mercury was almost constantly (during the day time) among, or

sometimes soaring to one hundred and five feet, and shading the ground beneath with the shade, producing lassitude in the system, enervating the frame of both man and beast, and making one feel that Paradise, to be all desirable, must possess some of the attributes of an ice-house! True, as a general thing, the nights were cool, too cool, often being agreeable unless to those favorably situated to remain comfortable. It was my fate to ride during one of the hot afternoons, some eighteen miles, in an open buggy, beneath a spacious "umbril," and to be exposed to a heat absolutely overpowering and

hasten to all courage and energy up to nightfall in the evening. The mercury cooled to 60° and the wind was light. At 11 o'clock. Two hours later, I was obliged to start on my return trip, knowing it just in time. Immediately following the commencement of the "wee small hours," and though I was clad in woolen, before the end of my ride to the station I was chilled to the very marrow of my bones. The absolute cold, the darkness, and the wind, I think, would lead any sensible readers can judge, with the aid of physician or physiologist, whether the human system can be long exposed to such sudden and "radical" changes of conditions without danger to its well-being.

At 12 o'clock the wind shifted to the north, and though we have had a few cool days, it is not so excessively dry, and the effect upon the growing crops is fearful to contemplate. Large fields of oats and wheat begin to wither and look as though ripening for the harvest.

parance results not from approaching man-
nery but drought; and this, too, at the pre-
cise juncture when the greatest damage must
be the effect, as the half-grown kernel will
be the most susceptible to development, making the year
light both in quantity and quality.

Our farmers are indeed a sorrowful people
and their sorrow is participated in by
classes, for if the wheat crop comes short
branches of business must suffer incalculable
loss, a general feeling the farmers are in debt
to the merchants, and the merchants are en-
gaged for the money with which they have
improved it, and the merchants in turn
in debt to Eastern creditors, and when
only product of the State which ordinarily
afford a surplus for shipment beyond our
own consumption, for export short, it requires
a prophet to predict the consequences. The
flows as naturally and as surely from
Northwest to the great Atlantic cities, as

back again, stagnation is sure to follow. So I, a St. Paul merchant to me a few days since, say what we will to the contrary, for the sake of keeping up appearances, money is scarcer and scarcer every day, as surely it dries the moisture beneath our parching sun.

Should I say to the readers of the *Pastor* that your "down east" farmers who raise thousands of good English hay to the acre, raise much more net money from their land than our best wheat-growers in this emphatic wheat State, some of your restless, discontented, and discontenting neighbors, who write to the statement, and yet such is the literature. I assume that *such hay, well cured*, is worth upon an average ten dollars per ton on the farm where cut, or twenty dollars per acre. Your readers are better qualified than

to keep up of top-dressing the land so as to well up the yield. How is it with wheat in Minnesota? The best of our wheat last year averaged, you say, with another, 30 bushels per acre. The average of the last two years for market, on the farm, is twenty-four cents per bushel, or, twenty-four dollars per acre. Deduct three dollars an acre for plowing, one dollar for sowing and one dollar for seed, and you are left with thirteen dollars for threshing, cleaning, binding and stacking, and the miller, paying the machine man for threshing, and much more for extra hands and horses for threshing and binding the men, and we have thirteen dollars, leaving only eleven dollars per acre as the profits of wheat-raising, even in Minnesota.

A Maine man who left your State about nine years since, and settled in one of the best wheat regions of this State, within twenty miles of one of the best markets on the Mississippi river, told me that he had raised

that he had never been able to do, with industry, good health, and strict economy all combined, he could not make his returns for crops sufficiently overlap the cost of production to afford his small family a comfortable living. He had several times, after paying his taxes, and the expenses of his family, sold his wheat to market and sold it for sixty-five cents a bushel, while he had sold pork some times as low as two dollars and a half for one hundred pounds! Eight years' experience has satisfied him that, in leaving Maine he did a wise thing, and that Maine was not a good place for him, for he was an Irishman, and other people of very primitive habits, who expend little for convenience and nothing for luxury, taste or embellishment, who see no advantages in common schools or refinement, and nothing to be feared in ignorance, is by no means the thing he had in mind.

For the benefit of your mercantile reader who may think this the place for large profits, we state a few facts. The best American prairie Merceries included, are retailed for two and a half cents; a good business suit of wool goods can be had for twelve or fifteen dollars; sugars are retailed at from twelve and a half to sixteen cents; the best kerosene is sold at from twelve and a half to fifteen cents; proportion, and yet nearly all these things come from the East, and pay exorbitant rates of transportation. Hardware, stoves, and all kinds of dry goods are nearly as cheap here as with you, while taxes, rates, insurance, etc., are very much higher: for corresponding prices, see our list.

To-day I am off on a brief trip for the necessity of Duluth, at the head of Lake Superior. The rails are now traversed to within ten

"The miles that I, and my
 friends, have traveled, present that is
 the centre of the State—the point to which
 all the money, the activity as well as
 the commerce of the whole surrounding coun-
 try is said to be plenty—the result of spec-
 ulation and railroad operations. Those who
 have been there, as a general rule, fear, I
 think, that the people of this place are
 ignorant, and that ruin will overtake the dar-
 ing spirits who are now traveling down the rail-
 road, and trying to build a city where natu-
 rally there has been excessive grudging in his
 money. From that point I will try and write you
 a letter, or at least gather up some news
 for you, and after returning, and making
 the promise that in naught will I extenuate
 the down again built in malice. Till then I
 remain, as heretofore, simply an OBSERVER."

The extent of railroads being built. "Unhappily," says the United States, however, it is obliged to import most of its rails. The Cleveland, Ohio, district alone, in England, are said to have orders from Russia to the value of \$3,000,000 for railway materials of all kinds. The Northeastern district is producing the largest amount of rail material at the rate of 1,700,000 tons a year, and increasing its furnaces, so great is the demand for rails in the construction of the railroads of Europe.

A large Florida planter, who has some four hundred negro hands employed, constitutional in the majority of the voters in the county, is reported to have offered to support one of them for Representative, they in turn to support him for Senator.

A Boston committee man is credited with the following terse critique on an examination: "You are a well-spoken, well-spoken, but you haven't a thing to say."

